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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

WITCH COLOR REPORT

COUNTRY Costs Rica

DATE:

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SUBJECT

Political Activities of Rafael Angel Calderon Guardia

DIST. 27 March 1947

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PAGES

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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- 1. In a report of 6 January 1947 Calderon is reported to have called at the home of Baudrio Odio Herrera, a coffee grower near Vuelta de Jorco, to seek the support of the latter in the coming presidential elections. During the course of the conversation Calderon stated that he expected to have some forty thousand constituents. In response to an observation by Odio on Communism, Calderon assured him that he was not going to tolerate the Communists, and was going to break with them before long. Calderon also stated that he was going to base his political platform on the removal from the Labor Code of two provisions heartily disliked by employers: cesantia, or termination pay required in the case of unjust dismissal of an employee, and preaviso, or termination notice required in the case of either dismissal or resignation. Odio received the impression during the conversation that relations between Calderon and President Tecdoro Picado were deteriorating as a result of constant disagreements.
- 2. Prospero Guardia, a cousin of Calderon, was reported on 29 January 1947 to be employing certain road construction machinery he has acquired as aid for Calderon's campaign in small outlying towns. Guardia first assures support from the cownspeople for his cousin before he will contract to repair impassable roads with the machinery in remote towns.
- 3. It is expected that Calderon's political ambitions will be complicated by the fact that he is seeking a divorce from his wife, Ivon, according to a report of 5 February 1947. Calderon has had a lawyer draw up the necessary papers for his wife to sign, but on 3 February she was still refusing to agree. In an effort to counter the bad effect that his desire to be divorced may have in the eyes of the clergy, Calderon has issued a statement in the periodical La Tribuna defending the right of the clergy to be elected to public office.

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